FD-35 (4-3-62)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Curious Are Drawn To Hear Mrs. Oswald

by JOE JANOFF
Of the World-Telegram Staff

Hours before Mrs. Marguerite Oswald was due to appear at Town Hall last night to defend her son, the crowd began to gather — the curious, the credulous, the hostile, the ones with angles of their own.

Most of them, including the sprinkling of women who wore mink and the men clothed in cashmere, merely wanted to hear what the mother of the man accused of slaying a President had to say.

"I guess like most people here I'm just curious," said playwright Lillian Hellman.

"I'm dying of curiosity, I just want to see what she looks like," said Mrs. A. J. Liebling, widow of the writer.

"I'm more curious about this Mrs. Oswald than any other aspect of the case," said a man who would identify himself only as an International Business Machines executive.

Ticket Moochers, Too

As police formed the crowd into a line outside the hall on W. 43rd St., the ticket moochers who somehow can smell a sellout appeared. "Got an extra ticket?" they said softly as they moved up and down the line. They had little luck.

At the boxoffice, a girl said the appearance of Lee Oswald's mother and her lawyer, Mark Lane, had sold out the hall's 1500 seats by 6:30 p.m. and hundreds of would-be buyers had been turned away.

Walking back and forth in front of the hall were those who had a special axe to grind.

Some causes were easily identified — friends of the National Guardian, the left wing weekly that sponsored Mrs. Oswald's appearance, were pushing that publication.

Others were distributing literature that demanded justice in the Rosenberg-Sobell case, or asked for the reinstatement of five expelled supporters of the Socialist Workers party.

The crowd, orderly and even a little subdued outside the hall, brightened only slightly when they took their seats and Mrs. Oswald and Lane appeared on stage.

Lane Plays Recording

Lane spoke first, and played a tape recording he said had been made by a Dallas ~~school~~ teacher ~~who left~~

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Evans
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Tolson
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM AND THE

Date: 2/19/64
Edition: 7th SPORTS
Author: JOE JANOFF
Editor: RICHARD D. PE
Title: LEE HARVEY OSW

UNDER INVESTIGATIO
Character: AFO
or
Classification: BU 62-109
Submitting Office: N

Doc #3

World-Telegram Photo

Mrs. Oswald speaking at Town Hall.

nessed the assassination of President Kennedy. The woman said she had heard shots come from an overpass ahead of the President's car. Lane said this meant the fatal shots had not come from the warehouse in which police have placed Oswald at the time of the slaying. He went on to vilify the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Secret Service and the Dallas police, and sat down to a patter of applause.

Mrs. Oswald, in a black, two-piece dress, black shoes and stockings, her gray hair in a bun, got up and said an injustice had been done, and that she would fight to correct it.

"I cannot help my son," she said. "He is gone and I accept that fact, but the way in which he is gone I will never accept."

Decribing herself as a "humble" woman "who believes in the American way of life," she vowed that this ~~was only~~ the first ~~of such~~ meetings. "There will be more, all over the country."

Seats for her appearance were priced from $1.50 to $5. The gross was estimated at $6000, and rent for the hall was $600.